

The Civic Green

April 22nd is Earth Day!

It's April in Morgan Hill and that means we're seeing green - green in the hills, in our plants and in the City! Earth Day is April 22nd and this year's Earth Day Art & Science Fair addresses two important environmental issues: storm drain water that flows untreated into our local creeks and eventually, Monterey Bay and carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to pollution and global warming.



The **seventh annual Earth Day Art & Science Fair** will be held at the

Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center on Thursday, April 22 from 2-6 pm. Show your love for Mother Nature by stopping by and checking out projects created by Morgan Hill students that illustrate the theme "Keep our Creeks Clean!" And don't forget...only rain goes in the storm drain! Thanks go to the Santa Clara Valley Water District for sponsoring this event.



Just Because It's April—Don't Be an Environmental Fool!

Properly Dispose of Hazardous Items

We all have it. It's under our sinks and tucked away in our garages and sheds. What is it? It's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Universal Waste and other hazardous items that, by law, cannot be sent to the landfill. Are you foolishly disposing of hazardous materials because you don't know what they are or how to properly dispose of them? Don't be an environmental fool! Make sure that you use these guidelines to dispose of these items properly.

HHW is any unwanted household product labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive or reactive. Common products include: aerosols, automotive fluids, car batteries, fertilizers, helium, household cleaners, latex & oil-based paints and stains, pesticides, propane, pool chemicals, thermostats & thermometers and used motor oil & filters (also collected in our curbside recycling program). Since 1991, the Santa Clara Countywide HHW Program has provided resi-

dents with a safe, convenient and free disposal service with year-round access. Drop-off events are held the first Friday and Saturday of every month (with holiday exceptions) at our local HHW facility in San Martin and are held rain or shine. A complete operating schedule can be found at <http://www.hhw.org>. You **MUST** preregister by calling 299-7300 to attend a drop-off event.



It is illegal for California residents to throw **Universal Waste** in the garbage. Universal waste consists of

batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury-containing products and most consumer electronics. Lead, mercury, copper and other metals can leach out when universal waste is crushed in landfills - polluting groundwater, streams and wildlife. Some examples of universal waste are:

Common batteries. Rechargeable, alkaline, NiCad, Lithium, silver button, and mercury batteries. To dispose of your household batteries, use a zippered plas-

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The finalists from our **12th Annual Environmental Poster Design Contest** will also be on display at the Earth Day Art & Science Fair. This year's poster theme is "Reduce Your Carbon Footprint". The contest is open to students K-12 and entries must be submitted by April 9th. The public will vote on their favorite posters and first place winners from each age category will receive \$100. Come out and vote for your favorite!



Find Us on Facebook!

Are you on Facebook? So is the Environmental Programs Division! Become a fan of our pages, City of Morgan Hill Environmental Programs Division and Morgan Hill Carbon Diet Club. Keep up to date on environmental happenings in Morgan Hill and share your thoughts with us.



New Carbon Diet Club Starting In April

In just 3 meetings, learn how to reduce your carbon footprint. Upcoming classes will be held on Tuesdays, 4/6 -4/20 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Classes meet at the Centennial Recreation Center and childcare is available. Call 782-2128 to pre-register.

tic bag and place batteries next to or on the recycling bin on your collection day. For your convenience, Booksmart at 80 E. Second Street and Radioshack at 1057 Cochrane Road have volunteered to be household battery collection centers.

Fluorescent Tubes, Bulbs, CFL's and other mercury-containing lamps contain mercury vapor that may be released into the environment when they are broken. In Morgan Hill, Johnson's Lumber at 600 Tennant Avenue will accept these items from residents at no charge.

Electronic Devices such as televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, stereo equipment, compact disc players, calculators, and microwave ovens often contain heavy metals like lead, cadmium, copper, and chromium. Remember, functional electronics can be donated to Goodwill, 778-3253. Non-reusable items are accepted at no charge by Western

Recycling at
16290 Railroad
Avenue,
779-1781.



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Home generated sharps (disposable hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, and other medical devices used for self-injection or

blood test) must be properly disposed of. The nearest sharps drop-off location is the San Martin Transfer Station, 842-3358. Visit <http://www.morganhill.ca.gov/index.aspx?NID=432> for details and other drop-off locations. Sharps must be in an approved container.



Prescription drugs and other over-the-counter medications should not be flushed down the toilet!

Although this was a practice used in the past, new studies show that prescription and over-the-counter drugs are not completely removed when passing through waste water treatment plants. Harm to marine and plant life can be caused by improper disposal. Please bring any unused or expired prescription drugs and other over-the-counter medications to the South County Sub Station 80 W. Highland Avenue, Building K, San Martin for proper disposal. They can be reached at 686-3650.

This Month's Green Living Tip:

Change in Water Restrictions

Summer is approaching, and despite the abundance of rain Morgan Hill has had this year, there are still restrictions and conservation measures in place for the 2010 summer season. Between April 1st and October 31st, irrigation watering is limited to 5 days per week between the hours of 5 pm and 9 am and is **not** allowed on Mondays and Thursdays. Watering is limited to 15 minutes a day per irrigation station (doesn't



apply to very low flow drip systems or hand watering). Water leaks and breaks **must** be fixed within three days. Washing down driveways and sidewalks is prohibited except to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards. Runoff from irrigation must not flow excessively onto the sidewalk, street, etc. The City will be re-evaluating the current drought restrictions in May or June depending on actions taken by the Santa Clara Valley Water District.